(i) Completion of electrification of bulk of the remaining villages in the next six years.

(ii) Extension of assistance to the States for village electrification works under the Prime Minister's Gramodaya Yojana (PMGY) whose funding is being augmented.

(iii) Stepping up credit support from Rural Electrification Corporation to SEBs for speedy electrification of dalit bastis; households of scheduled tribes and other weaker sections of society;

(iv) Improving the quality of power supply in villages.

(v) Augmentation of distribution networks in rural areas supported by REC under the Accelerated Power Development Programme (APDP).

(vi) Earmarking a sum of Rs. 750 crores out of RIDF by allowing it to float capital gains tax exemption bonds along with NABARD and NHAI under Section 54 EC of the Income Tax Act.

The un-electrified villages in the State of Arunachal Pradesh would get covered accordingly. As per CEA's statistics, out of total 3649 inhabited villages (1991 census), 2206 villages have been reported to be electrified as on 31st March, 2001. In addition, a scheme for electrification of 60 villages at a cost of Rs. 897 lakhs has also been approved for implementation out of Non-Lapsable Central Pool of Resources.

Government have set the goal of 100% electrification of villages feasible to be connected with the Grid by 2007. The remote villages are proposed to be electrified using non-conventional sources of energy by the year 2012.

Fast track power projects

1150. SHRI SURESH PACHOURI: Will the Minister of POWER be pleased to state:

(a) the number of fast track power projects sanctioned, so far;

(b) the target fixed for making them operational;

(c) the progress made in each case, so far; and

(d) the steps taken by Government to complete these projects within the stipulated time?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF POWER (SHRIMATI JAYAWANTI MEHTA): (a) to (d) Government of India had provided counter guarantee to eight projects in 1994. Details of the private power projects which have already been extended counter guarantee of Government of India are given below:

Sl. No.	Name of the Project	Capacity (MW)	Commissioning Schedule
1.	Dabhol Combined Cycle Gas Turbine, Phase-I, M/s Dabhol Power Co. Maharashtra	740	Commissioned in May, 1999
2.	Jegurupadu Combined Cycle Gas Turbine, M/s GVK Industries Ltd., Andhra Pradesh	216	Commissioned in July, 1997.
3.	Neyveli (Single Unit Lignite Based) Thermal Power Project, M/s ST-CMS Electric Co., Tamil Nadu	250	December, 2002
4.	Bhadravati Thermal Power Project, M/s Central India Power Co. Ltd., Maharashtra	1082	42—48 months from Financial Closure.
5.	Visakhapatnam Thermal Power Project, M/s. Hinduja National Power Corporation Ltd., Andhra Pradesh	1040	38—44 months from Financial Closure.

M/s. Spectrum Power Generation Limited, the promoters of the 208 MW Godavari CCGT in Andhra Pradesh withdrew their request for counter guarantee. The project has been fully commissioned in

March, 1998. The projects indicated at Serial No. 4 & 5 above are yet to achieve financial closure and commence construction activities.

In the case of the remaining two projects on December 22, 1999, Government of India approved extension of counter guarantee, through the revised procedure, for the 500 MW Ib Valley Thermal Power Project in Orissa of M/s. AES Ib Valley Corporation and the 1013.2 MW Mangalore Thermal Power Project in Karnataka of M/s. Mangalore Power Company Ltd. The draft counter guarantee and tripartite agreement documents in respect of these two projects have been forwarded to the respective State Governments for comments/necessary action. Further action for extending counter guarantee for these two projects will be taken after necessary action is taken by the concerned State Governments for adherence to the terms and conditions for extension of the counter guarantee of the Government of India. The State Governments of Orissa and Karnataka have suggested several changes in the conditions for the counter guarantee. These have been discussed with them and detailed proposals in this regard are awaited from the State Governments.

Closures of Rajghat Power Station

1151. SHRI A. VIJAYA RAGHAVAN: Will the Minister of POWER be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Rajghat Power Station and one unit of Badarpur Thermal Power Station has been closed during the current summer;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor; and

(c) by when these will resume their normal functioning?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF POWER (SHRIMATI JAYAWANTI MEHTA): (a) to (c) Out of the two units (67.5 MW each) of Rajghat Power Station, Unit No. 1 was closed for scheduled overhauling with effect from 19.3.2001. The unit started generation on 27.5.2001 and was stabilized on 14.6.2001. Unit No. 2 developed some technical fault on 19.5.2001, which was